

## Central Valley Water Board Program Fact Sheet FY 2015-2016

### Confined Animal Facilities Program

## Overview

The Central Valley is one of the world's most productive agricultural areas. It is home to a variety of agricultural operations that rely on animals, including chickens, cows, sheep, goats, pigs, and even bees.

*Confined Animal Facilities* are farms or ranches where livestock are held for a significant part of the time and provided food, as opposed to grazing, where livestock eat forage that grows naturally or in pastures. Federal regulations include a definition for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs), which are a subset of Confined Animal Facilities that meet certain size thresholds. The Board regulates Confined Animal Facilities primarily under authority of the California Water Code, which does not include a size threshold.

Most Confined Animal Facilities in the Central Valley are dairies. There are also a significant number of feedlots (for beef cattle and to raise support stock for dairies) and poultry facilities. Since the early 2000's, the Board has spent much of its resources on developing and implementing regulations for dairies. The Board is currently underway to develop general orders to regulate feedlots and poultry facilities. Nearly 1,300 dairies are in the Central Valley, most regulated by a comprehensive Dairy General Order adopted for existing dairies in 2007 that has requirements for corrals, production areas, ponds, and land application areas. New dairies or dairies that have expanded since then, are subject to individual orders with the same requirements.

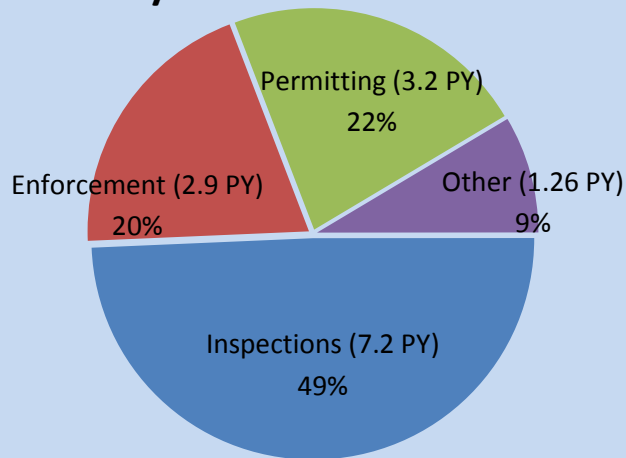
Dairy sizes vary from fewer than 100 cows to nearly 10,000 cows at the largest dairies. The average dairy size is about 1,200 cows. We estimate there are up to 800 commercial feedlots, varying in size from fewer than 100 to several thousand head, and up to 200 commercial poultry facilities, housing anywhere from 400 to 600,000 birds. There are also a small number of goat and swine facilities in the Region.

There are 12 staff working in the program, supplemented by approximately 3 or 4 other staff that each have a small percentage of their time to help with the program. Staff are fairly equally divided between the Rancho Cordova and Fresno offices. Staff from the Rancho Cordova office also oversee the dozen or so dairies that are in the area covered by the Redding office.

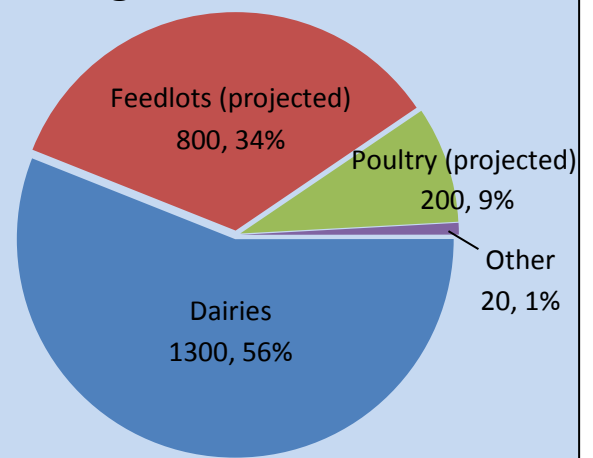
## Goals

The goal of the Confined Animal Facilities Program is to prevent the impairment of surface water or groundwater by regulating discharges from confined animal facilities. Discharges include manure, wastewater, and storm water runoff that may contain waste constituents. The Program seeks to preserve the human right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water, while also preserving the benefits of a healthy and sustainable livestock industry.

## 2015/2016 Staff Activities



## Regulated Facilities



## Fiscal Year 15/16 Performance Targets

	Target	Completed
Inspections	350	446

Postponement of permitting work in FY15/16 freed resources used to conduct more inspections.

## Notable Accomplishments

In Fiscal Year 2015/2016, the Confined Animal Facilities Program:

1. Conducted nearly 450 inspections of confined animal facilities.
2. Issued approximately 100 informal enforcement actions (notices of violation), including the associated follow up to ensure violations were corrected.
3. Reviewed nearly 1,300 annual reports for completeness and took informal enforcement for incomplete reports.
4. Pursued formal enforcement for illegal discharges from confined animal facilities as well as for failure to submit annual reports.
5. Significant outreach and stakeholder participation in developing general orders for bovine feedlots and for poultry facilities.
6. Created and chaired an ongoing series of roundtables in which all nine regions share information regarding how we regulate confined animal facilities. This has led to better coordination of resources and consistency statewide.
7. Participated in a Technical Advisory Committee to award twelve million dollars in grants from the Department of Food and Agriculture to qualifying manure digesters.
8. Managed a contract with UC Davis to evaluate mass nitrogen loading rates from confined animal facilities and estimate the overall flux of nitrogen reaching groundwater.
9. Helped administer a contract with UC Davis to develop digester technologies for producing a more storable and transportable fertilizer product in addition to generating biogas.